A London TORY

Vying in CRUELTY with an

IRISH RAPPAREE:

Or, an Account of a moſt Barbarous

MURDER,

Committed upon *Sunday* the 22d Day of *March* 169⅞, in *Goodman's-Fields*, by *James Selby*, a Diſtiller; with brief Hints of the Murderer's former Converſation and Practices.

NOT to trouble the Reader (as is uſual) with an impertinent Preamble to this ſo diſmal Story: One who went by the name of Mrs. *Bartlet*, (a Woman of no good repute, about the Age of 30 years) had for about two years paſt kept a little Brandy-ſhop, and under that diſguiſe, a *Bawdy-Houſe* at the end of *Leman* Street in *Goodmans-fields*, near to *Roſemary* Lane.

Upon *Sunday* the 22d. of *March* inſtant, at about a quarter paſt ten at Night, the Watchmen in a Watch-houſe in *Roſemary Lane*, (not many paces diſtant from *Bartlet's* Houſe) hearing an Out-cry, repaired to the Door, where they heard a noiſe as of Blows given; and forcing open the Door, found a Woman named *Mary Kitchen*, weltering in Blood: At the ſame inſtant, others of the Watch going to a Lane on the backſide of the Houſe, ſeized *James Selby*, who had climbed over the Pales, being beſmeared with Blood, and without an Hat; whom they ſecured in the Watch-Houſe.

The Conſtable upon ſearch of the Houſe, found *Bartlet* lying upon a Bed, (two pair of Stairs) in her Cloaths, with her Throat cut almoſt from Ear to Ear; and a Pillow thrown over her Head; and *Selby's* Hat and Gloves lying by her.

Mary Kitchen (not having, it ſeems, been inſtructed in the late celebrated *Doctrin* of *Paſſive Obedience* and *Non-Reſiſtance*) had ſtruggled to ſave her Life: and being yet alive, ſhe declares, That the Wretch *Selby* ſent her down Stairs to fetch a quarter of Brandy, and ſhe being returning with it, he met her at the foot of the Stairs, and knock'd her down with a Hammer, which ſhe thinks he might bring with him in his pocket, for ſhe had not ſeen any Hammer in the Houſe: That ſhe got up again, and got him by the Collar, and they ſtrove together near three quarters of an hour, when he again knock'd her down and cut her Throat; which appears to be cut on both ſides of her Wind-pipe, as alſo her Hand; which is concluded to have been done by her catching hold of the Villain's Knife, and his drawing it through her Hand. She hath ſeveral very dangerous Hurts upon her Head, her Skull being bare; and the Chirurgeon declares, that he doubts that the Wounds may prove mortal. There were found lying by her, the Bloody Knife, and the Hammer, and a Fire-Iron, called a Poker, with a braſs head, the Handle of the Hammer, and Head of the Poker, being both bloody.

The Conſtable carried *Selby* to this poor Wretch, and demanding of her whether ſhe knew him, ſhe anſwered, Ay; that is the Rogue that would have murdered me; and if I die, pray let him be hanged; Whereupon the *Cut-Throat* only ſhak'd his Head, but ſpoke not a word. He being a ſecond time carried to her, ſhe ſaid that he was the Man that murdered Mrs. *Bartlet* if ſhe were dead; for he had been with her five hours, and no body elſe was in the Houſe; to which he only ſtiftly ſaid, That there were others in the Houſe. He being then carried back to the Watch-Houſe, a Woman ask'd him, if his Conſcience did not fly in his Face for ſuch a Wickedneſs; and he ſaid, yes it doth; but would not diſcourſe further.

About

About ten of the Clock on *Monday* Morning, *Selby* was carried before Juſtice *Osborne* and Juſtice *Robins*; his Hands, Coat, Cravat and Cuffs being all bloody; being there examined, he confeſſed that he had been five or ſix times at the Houſe. He would not directly confeſs that he committed theſe horrid Facts, but ſaid, That he was drunk, and only remembred that there was a Fray, and that if any Miſchief was done by his means, he knew not what he did; and that he had ſpent about eighteen or twenty Shillings in the Houſe that Evening.

'Tis evident that he had often haunted that part of the Town; for ſince *Chriſtmas* laſt, he hath been ſeveral times at a very civil Houſe, a Coffee-Houſe in the ſame Street, at the Corner of *Peſcod* Street; where he once, without any occaſion given, did impudently expreſs his diſaffection to Their moſt Gracious Majeſties Government, and magnified the late King; which not being approved by ſeveral then preſent, there aroſe ſome heat about his ſeditious Diſcourſe, between him and the Company: and particularly one Capt. *Powlter*; but he was not known to the People of the Coffee-Houſe, or to any others then in the Room; nor what his buſineſs thereabouts was.

It may deſerve Obſervation, that this Monſter of Wickedneſs hath long made Blood and Murder his ſport and paſtime; he began betimes to be a *Reformer*: and was very Active againſt the Diſſenters Meetings, and in breaking down their Pulpits and Pews: He was a very forward Spark among the *London Apprentices*, at their never to be forgotten *Royal Venijon Feaſt* at Merchant-Taylors-Hall (*where ſome Great Men gave the Boys the Honour of their Company*) and thereby acquired the Name of *Captain*. By degrees he roſe higher, and about three years ſince was made one of the *Stewards* of the Feaſt of the *Sons* of the *Clergy*. At the time when the Duke of *Monmouth* was cut off, he (keeping a Diſtillers Shop by *Whitegate-Alley*, without *Biſhops-Gate*, within five or ſix Doors of the *Red-Lyon-inn*) with his Neighbour *S —— n* in *Whitegate-Alley*, (who was Bloody *Atterbury*'s Spy upon that part of the Town) were the perſons who contrived and made the greateſt Bonefire at *Selby*'s Door, that ever was ſeen about *London*; that of the Burning the City for Popiſh Recreation in the Year 1666, excepted: In this Bonefire they Expoſed and Burnt the Effigies of the Duke; and alſo thoſe of the Earls of *Shafteſbury* and *Argile*, my Lord *Ruſſell*'s, Colonel *Sidney*'s, Dr. *Oates*'s, and a Non-Conformiſt Miniſter's in a Tub, with *Brand*'s, (who kept the *Red-Lyon-Inn*, and was Kill'd at the Head of a Troop of Horſe, which he Commanded for the Duke at *Cansham-Bridg*) and that the Neighbourhood, where Captain *Brand* had been well beloved, might not fail to know whom they meant, they Pictured the *Red Lyon* by him. *S — n*'s hopeful Son, at the beginning of the Show, called out to their Crew, ſaying, *Let us go and pull out the Jade*, Brand's *Wife, and Burn her with her Huſband*; and the Boy *Selby* propoſed to the Managers, *to Burn a Geneva Bible*; but ſome ſay they judged it a little too early for that; others, that it was Burnt. He Contributed conſiderably to the Entertainment of the Rabble, and ſet out for them a Cask of Brandy of about 10 l. Value, to Drink King *James*'s Health and Confuſion to the *Whigs*.

But this will be Eſteemed only for a Frolick, when his later Exploits ſhall come to light. About a Year ſince, the Bell Ale-Houſe in *Spittle-Fields-Market* was Burnt down in the Night; the Landlady's Name was Mrs. *Foſter*, a Woman of better Subſtance than Reputation; *Selby* was well acquainted with her, and knew, as did many of her Neighbours, that ſhe had Plate in her Houſe, to the value of 50 or 60 l. with old Gold and Silver. It is notoriouſly known thereabouts, that he was Drinking in that Houſe late in the Evening, in which the Fire happened, with a *Whitegate-Alley* Man; and that he confeſſed, That after his Companion was gone, he ſtayed alone till eleven of the Clock. It could never be made out that any other Perſon was afterwards in the Houſe; and 'tis certain that the Woman, a Child, and a Servant Periſhed either by Fire, or by Knife; the Remains of their Bodies were found in the Ruins, but no Mony could be found, upon the moſt careful ſifting of the Rubbiſh; tho' an empty Purſe was taken up, which the Woman had ſhown to *Selby* in the preſence of a Neighbour, with twenty pieces of broad Gold in it.

There are few about *Spittle-Fields* who do not know that a Brandy-man (tho' every body knows not his Name) hath ever ſince this laſt mentioned Fact, been violently ſuſpected for it; and time will ſhew whether the ſame Perſon was not one of the bloody Murderers of the three Women whoſe Throats were cut, about two Months ſince in a lewd Coffee-houſe near *Well-cloſe*; at a ſmall diſtance from *Goodman's-Fields*; for it is reported, that it being demanded of *Selby*, after he was taken, Whether he did not Commit that Murder, he denied it; but added very ſuſpitious words, ſaying, That that was done by four Men: and the Woman who is yet living, declares *that he had acknowledged to* Bartler, *in her hearing, that he did know who Committed the laſt mentioned Murder.*

'Tis remembred that Dr. *Pelling* Preaching upon the Famous *Keeling*'s *Plot*, ſaid, that *Cuting of Throats would have been counted but a Scotch way of Triming, and the Deſtruction of Princes no more but a perfecting the* HISTORY *of the* REFORMATION. We here find one of his Diſciples taking a more effectual courſe to ſuppreſs *Bawdy-Houſes* than they had thought of in the late Reigns to Extirpate *Conventicles*; and ſurely 'tis the moſt Compendious way to Reform the World in that point, by Cuting the Whores Throats, and Burning down their Harbours.

London, Printed for *Ellis Brand*, without *Biſhopſgate*, 1691.